

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Pursuant to 37 CFS § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked up copy of the each paragraph amended below appears on the page immediately following each amendment.

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 2 line 12 and ends on page 2, line 15 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

01 -- A principal advantage of this embodiment is that various shortcomings of previous techniques are overcome. For example, the embodiment provides a visually impaired computer user with an ability to diagnose failures and change a system configuration of a computer system in a pre-boot environment. --

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 3 and ends on page 3, line 12 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

02 -- Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of a system for providing audible outputs in a pre-boot environment in a computer system 100. Computer system 100 is configured to operate in conjunction with a speech synthesizer 160. Speech synthesizer 160 may be coupled to a port of computer system 100, such as a serial port, a parallel port, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port, or a wireless port, which may be included in computer system 100 as a component of computer system 100, which may be included in a component of computer system 100 such as a sound card or other audio device, or which may be configured to remotely communicate with computer system 100 such as by using a wireless communications device or a network device. --

Please delete the paragraph that begins on page 4, line 9 and ends on page 4, line 20 and insert the following paragraph therefor:

AB -- Basic problems or errors associated with computer system 100 may be detected by BIOS 134, particularly during POST. These problems or errors may make computer system 100 inoperable or may require attention on the part of a user of computer system 100. In order to provide a visually impaired computer user with an ability to diagnose failures and change a system configuration of computer system 100, computer system 100 is configured to provide an audible output to enable a visually impaired user to determine what is being shown on display device 150 of computer system 100 in the pre-boot environment. To provide the audible outputs, computer system 100 provides signals associated with information provided to display device 150 and to speech synthesizer 160. Speech synthesizer 160 generates audible outputs associated with the signals to inform a user of computer system 100 of the information that is visually displayed on display device 150. --

Please delete the paragraphs that begin on page 6, line 22 and end on page 7, line 16 and insert the following paragraphs therefor:

AC -- Fig. 2 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a portion of a method for providing audible outputs in a pre-boot environment in a computer system. In Fig. 2, a BIOS initializes a port as indicated in step 202. A determination is made as to whether a speech synthesizer is coupled to the port as indicated in step 204. If the speech synthesizer is not coupled to the port, then the method continues at step 210 as described below.

If the speech synthesizer is coupled to the port, then a flag is set as indicated in step 206. A table associated with the speech synthesizer is initialized as

indicated in step 208. The BIOS causes a splash screen to be displayed as indicated in step 210. The BIOS causes information associated with the splash screen to be provided to the speech synthesizer, if present, as indicated in step 212. The BIOS completes initialization of the computer system as indicated in step 214.

Fig. 3 is a flow chart illustrating an embodiment of a portion of a method for providing audible outputs in a pre-boot environment in a computer system. Information associated with the splash screen is received as indicated in step 302. A determination is made as to whether the flag is set as indicated in step 304. If the flag is set, then the method continues at step 310 as described below. If the flag is not set, then a determination is made as to whether a speech synthesizer is coupled to the port as indicated in step 306. If the speech synthesizer is not coupled to the port, then the method ends as indicated. If the speech synthesizer is coupled to the port, then the flag is set as indicated in step 308. --

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